

Why Develop a Water Efficiency Program?

Water is an increasingly valuable commodity and essential for strong property values. Efficiency programs – both facility-based measures and those involving customer efforts – can help solve a variety of challenges facing water systems. Water efficiency efforts can:

- **Expand capacity** – System efficiency improvements and customer-oriented conservation efforts recover system capacity, allowing systems to grow within existing capacity limits and eliminate or forestall costly facility expansion.
- **Save operations and maintenance costs** – Reducing waste and demand trims operation and maintenance expenses, such as pumping, energy and treatment costs.
- **Reduce peak demands** – Increasing water-use efficiency can help manage peak demands and delay or eliminate the need to design for higher maximum-day demands.
- **Delay capital expenditures** – Capital facilities are expensive to build and maintain. Wasting water leads to premature failure and replacement of essential infrastructure.
- **Decrease wastewater treatment costs** – Reduced water use decreases flows to the wastewater treatment plant or to on-site treatment systems, improving longevity and reducing maintenance costs.
- **Demonstrate responsibility** – Saving water and eliminating waste is increasingly viewed by customers as “the right thing to do”.
- **Protect public health** – Repairing system leaks supports greater system reliability by protecting against system disruption and back siphonage. The same cracks, holes and leaky joints that allow water to escape will also allow contaminated water to be pulled into the distribution system under backflow conditions.

The Division of Drinking Water is committed to helping water systems develop and implement water efficiency programs by providing assistance in finding technical and financial resources. For more information, contact your regional water conservation specialist.

*For assistance with
water use efficiency
planning, contact
your regional water
conservation specialist.*

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